

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JAKART 11764 250230Z

62

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 /090 W

----- 110939

R 231015Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0421

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

USUN NEW YORK 0990

CINCPAC

FOSIF WESTPAC

CINCPACFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 11764

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS ID PO PT AS

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE TIMOR (PT) DEVELOPMENTS: GOI

DENIES CAPTURE OF INDONESIAN TROOPS BY FRETELIN

REF: JAKARTA 11544

BEGIN SUMMARY: GOI SPOKESMAN SEPT 22 DENIED PRESS
REPORTS OF CAPTURE OF INDONESIAN TROOPS IN PT, BUT DID
NOT DENY PRESENCE OF INDONESIAN TROOPS IN COLONY.
JAKARTA PRESS REPORTS FEATURE STORIES OF GROWING
APODETI-UDT COUNTER-ATTACK IN PT AIMED PRIMARILY AT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JAKART 11764 250230Z

FRETILIN STRONGHOLDS IN DILI REGION. REPORTED STATE-

MENTS BY FRETILIN AND UDT LEADERS SHOW NO PROGRESS
TOWARDS GOP-PROPOSED PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. GOI AIDE
INDICATED TO EMBOFF SEPT 23 GOI INTENTION THAT APODETI-
UDT FORCES, ASSISTED BY INDONESIAN "DESERTERS", WILL
CONTINUE SLOW PUSH TOWARDS DILI CULMINATING IN EVENTUAL
VICTORY OVER FRETILIN. END SUMMARY. END CONFIDENTIAL

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. GOI FONOFF SPOKESMAN NANA SUTRESNA SEPT 22 ISSUED
OFFICIAL DENIAL OF RADIO AUSTRALIA REPORTS THAT "TENS" OF
INDONESIAN TROOPS HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY FRETILIN FORCES
IN PT. SUTRESNA STATED THAT CHECKS HAD BEEN MADE AND
REPORTS FOUND TO BE UNTRUE. SUTRESNA ADDED THAT FRETILIN
WAS ATTEMPTING TO DISTORT FACTS AND ATTRACT INTERNATIONAL
ATTENTION BY SUCH CLAIMS.

2. JAKARTA PRESS MEANWHILE HAS CARRIED SERIES OF
REPORTS ON APODETI-UDT COUNTER-OFFENSIVE IN PT,
INCLUDING ATTACKS ON FRETILIN-CONTROLLED TOWNS OF SUAI
ON SOUTHERN PT COAST AND ATSABE SOUTHWEST OF DILI.
BATTLE MAP OF PT PUBLISHED IN EVENING DAILY SINAR HARAPAN
SEPT 22 SUGGESTS TWO-FRONT OFFENSIVE WITH MAJOR EFFORT
CONCENTRATED ON NORTHERN FRONT AIMED AT FRETILIN "STRONG-
HOLDS" OF MAUBISSE AND AILEU SOUTH OF DILI. REPORTS
STATE APODETI-UDT FORCES USING GUERRILLA HIT-AND-RUN
TACTICS AND HAD SUCCEEDED IN DESTROYING SOME FRETILIN
WEAPON STOCKPILES AND SEIZING OTHER ARMS. FORCE STRENGTHS
AND CASUALTY FIGURES NOT MENTIONED, ALTHOUGH SOME REPORTS
CLAIM HIGH CASUALTIES IN SEVERAL TOWNS (INCLUDING MALIANA
AND BOBONARO NEAR INDONESIAN BORDER) AS RESULT OF FRETILIN
TACTIC OF USING LOCAL POPULATION AS HUMAN SCREEN FOR
FRETILIN TROOPS. REPORTS FEATURE PRO-INDONESIAN RAJA
(KING) OF ATSABE, GONSALVES, AS MOST INFLUENTIAL LOCAL
LEADER INVOLVED IN CURRENT BATTLES, PERSONALLY LEADING
2,000 FOLLOWERS IN FRONT LINES.

3. ONE REPORT (IN LEADING DAILY KOMPAS SEPT 19) ATTRI-
BUTED TO FRETILIN PARTY LEADER FRANCISCO XAVIER DO AMARAL
IN DILI STATEMENT THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE INDONESIAN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JAKART 11764 250230Z

GOVERNMENT WAS BEHIND MILITARY ACTIONS BY FRETILIN'S PT
OPPONENTS. AMARAL ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT FRETILIN
WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN PEACE DISCUSSIONS PROPOSED BY
GOP ENVOY SANTOS BUT PROPOSED CANBERRA AS "NEUTRAL" SITE
AND REJECTED MACAO DUE TO PRO-UDT ATMOSPHERE. ENGLISH-
LANGUAGE INDONESIA TIMES SEPT 23 REPORTS STATEMENT BY
UDT LEADER OLIVEIRA THAT UDT HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER
TO ATTEND PROPOSED MACAO MEETING BUT THAT UDT WOULD

REFUSE TO RELEASE 22 PORTUGUESE PRISONERS HELD IN BATUGUDE
AS DEMANDED BY GOP AND WOULD KILL THE PRISONERS IF
SITUATION REMAINED UNCERTAIN.

4. PT REFUGEES IN INDONESIAN TIMOR ESTIMATED AT 37,000
AS OF SEPT 22. END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

5. AIDE TO PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR ALI MURTOPO TOLD EMBOFF
SEPT 23 THAT APODETI-UDT OFFENSIVE WOULD LIKELY MAINTAIN
PRESENT PACE FOR THE MOMENT, MAKING SLOW PROGRESS TOWARDS
ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF DILI. HE CONFIRMED THAT FONOFF
STATEMENT DENYING CAPTURE OF GOI TROOPS HAD NOT DENIED
PRESENCE OF GOI TROOPS IN PT, AND SAID THAT GOI HAD NO
WAY OF PREVENTING INDONESIAN "DESERTERS" FROM JOINING IN
FIGHTING ACROSS BORDER, SUGGESTING THAT GOI UNCONCERNED
OVER VISIBILITY OF INDONESIAN INVOLVEMENT IN PT AS LONG
AS FORMAL DENIABILITY MAINTAINED. AIDE INTERPRETED
AMERAL REMARKS DOUBTING GOI INVOLVEMENT IN PT AS REFLECTING
SIMILAR FRETILIN DESIRE AVOID OPEN CONFRONTATION WITH GOI
(SHICH FRETILIN AWARE IT COULD NOT WIN). HE SAID GOI HAS
NO EXPECTATION THAT SANTOS' PROPOSED PEACE TALKS WILL
EVER MATERIALIZE, AND SEES ULTIMATE RESOLUTION OF TIMOR
CONFLICT BEING FOUGHT OUT ON GROUND. HE ALSO SUGGESTED
THAT RAJA OF ATSABE WAS GOI CANDIDATE FOR FUTURE GOVERNOR
OF EAST TIMOR PROVINCE FOLLOWING MERGER WITH INDONESIA.
NEWSOM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, PRESS COMMENTS, POW, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JAKART11764
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750332-0188
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750927/aaaaaxeh.tel
Line Count: 143
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 JAKARTA 11544
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGUESE TIMOR (PT) DEVELOPMENTS: GOI DENIES CAPTURE OF INDONESIAN TROOPS BY FRETELIN
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, ID, PO, PT, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006